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## **FACSIMILE COVER SHEET**

**DATE:** October 15, 2004  
**FILE NO:** ROC920010079US1  
**TO:** Examiner Ronald Laneau  
**FAX NO:** 703/872-9306  
**COMPANY:** USPTO  
**FROM:** Gero G. McClellan  
**PAGE(S) with cover:** 11  
**ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW?** ☐ YES ☒ NO

### **RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED AUGUST 24, 2004**

**U.S. SERIAL NO.:** 09/848,572  
**FILING DATE:** May 3, 2001  
**INVENTOR:** Bates et al.  
**EXAMINER:** Ronald Laneau  
**GROUP ART UNIT:** 3627  
**CONFIRMATION NO.:** 6826

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## PATENT

Atty. DKL No. ROC920010079US1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of:  
Bates et al.

**Serial No.: 09/848,572**

Confirmation No.: 6826

**Filed:** May 3, 2001

**For: Systems and Methods for  
Operating Vending Machines**

**Group Art Unit: 3627**

**Examiner:** Laneau, Ronald

**Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

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**37 CFR 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office to fax number 703/872-9306 to the attention of Examiner Laneau on the date below:

October 15, 2004

Date Gero G. McClellan

**Dear Sir:**

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED AUGUST 24, 2004**

In response to the Final Office Action dated August 24, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on November 24, 2004, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. While no fees are believed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 09-0465 for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

The Claims are listed beginning on page 2 of this paper. Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.